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Abstract of Disclosure:

Details relating to the current operational state of primary components of an electric energy supply system are obtained in a simple manner. The method is used to determine a load characteristic (K1) indicating the load of electric primary components (2) in an electric energy distribution network. The following method steps are performed: descriptive values (M) describing the operational state of the primary component are recorded, especially measuring values of a primary variable, by way of a sensor (3) connected to a field device (5) which carries out functions for the automation of the energy distribution network; the total sum of the descriptive values (M) is determined by the duration of at least one predetermined time interval by forming a load intermediate value (K*) and the load characteristic (K1) is produced according to the variable of the load intermediate value (K1) compared to a predetermined load threshold value.